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INK JET RECORDING HEAD AND  
METHOD FOR MANUFACTURING INK JET RECORDING HEAD

5 BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION

Field of the Invention

The present invention relates to an ink jet recording head, and a method for manufacturing an ink jet recording head.

10 Related Background Art

A liquid discharge recording apparatus is ~~the a~~ recording apparatus of the so-called non-impact recording type which can perform recording at high speed and use various kinds of recording mediums for 15 recording. Then, it is characterized in that almost no noise is generated at the time of recording. For the liquid discharge recording methods adoptable for a liquid discharge recording apparatus of ~~the this~~ kind, there is, as the typical example thereof, a method that 20 uses an electrothermal converting device as a discharge energy generating element. The liquid discharge recording head that uses this method provides ~~each of~~ ~~the an~~ electrothermal converting ~~devices~~ device in each pressure chamber, and provides thermal energy for 25 recording liquid when the electric pulses, which serve

as recording signals, are applied to each of electrothermal converting devices. This generates the phaseal changes a change of state of the recording liquid, and then, the bubbling pressure of the recording liquid exerted at the time of bubbling (at the time of boiling) is utilized for discharging recording liquid droplets.

Further, of the liquid discharge recording heads that use the electrothermal converting method, there are the one that adopts the method in which recording liquid is discharged in parallel to the base plate having the electrothermal converting devices arranged therefor (edge shooter) and the one that adopts the method in which recording liquid is discharged perpendicularly to the base plate having the electrothermal converting devices arranged therefor (side shooter).

Fig. 17 is a view which shows the state where the recording element base plate, which constitutes the background art of the application hereof, is mounted on a supporting member.

As shown in Fig. 17, a plurality of discharge ports 104a for discharging recording liquid are arranged on the discharge port plate 104 provided for the recording element base plate 103 on the a surface side thereof to be open in two lines in a position to face facing the discharge energy generating elements (electrothermal converting devices, for example) 105,

and the discharge port array is structured to form one  
a pair by ~~two~~ of lines. The recording liquid supply  
path 101a has a flow path width larger than the opening  
width of the inlet portion of the recording liquid  
5 supply port 106. As a result, the thickness of a  
partition wall 101b that partitions ~~the~~ two recording  
supply paths 101a adjacent to each other is smaller  
than the pitch between the inlet portions themselves of  
the two recording liquid supply ports 106 adjacent to  
10 each other.

There have been known several assembling methods  
or the like used for the manufacture of such recording  
element base plate as described above and the liquid  
discharge head that includes such base plate.

15 For example, in the specification of Japanese  
Patent Laid-Open Application No. 09-187952, an  
assembling method is disclosed to position the  
recording element base plate with respect to a method  
for manufacturing a liquid discharge head. This  
20 assembling method is such as to position the recording  
element base plate in good precision by use of vacuum  
adsorption fingers, and then, to fix the recording  
element base plate by the application of a bonding  
agent of the type that dually uses ultraviolet and  
25 thermal hardening.

Also, in the specification of Japanese Patent  
Laid-Open Application No. 11-179923, a method is

disclosed for bonding an orifice plate (discharge port plate) to the main body of a liquid discharge head.

Also, in the specification of Japanese Patent Laid-Open Application No. 11-188873, a method is  
5 disclosed for bonding a nozzle member to the main body of a liquid discharge head which is provided with a plurality of ink chambers.

Of the recording element base plates described above, the second recording element base plate 103, which is provided with a plurality of discharge port arrays, in particular, makes it necessary to narrow the ~~pitches each other for the pitch between adjacent~~ recording liquid supply port ports 106 in a case where the number of recording element base plates is increased to implement ~~the a cost down reduction~~ when the base plates are cut out from one silicon wafer or where the number of discharge port arrays 103a is increased without making the recording element base plate larger.

20 If the ~~pitches~~ pitch between recording liquid supply ports 106 ~~themselves are~~ is made smaller, there is a need for making the thickness ~~smaller for of~~ the partition wall 101b of the supporting member 101 smaller accordingly. However, if the partition wall 25 101b is made thinner, there are problems that may be encountered as given noted below.

(1) It ~~becomes is~~ difficult for to form the ~~ceramics ceramic~~ supporting member 101 ~~to form the with~~

thin partition wall walls less than a certain thickness thickness, from the viewpoint of manufacture.

(2) If the partition wall walls 101b is are thin, the vibration waves are propagated to the adjacent supply flow path paths through the partition wall walls 101b when recording liquid is discharged. Then, in the adjacent supply flow path paths, the defective supply of the recording liquid is caused to occur becomes defective due to the propagated vibrations with the resultant vibrations, resulting in defective printing defect.

(3) Further, if the partition wall walls 101b is are thin, it becomes necessary to make the assembling precision higher for the recording element base plate 103 in relation to the supporting member 101 so as not to allow the adjunct adjacent supply flow paths 101a themselves to mix recording liquids.

On the other hand, if the partition wall walls 101b is are made too thick, the width of the supply flow path paths 101a becomes narrower to make narrower, making it impossible to supply recording liquid to the recording liquid supply port ports 106 in a sufficient amount.

Therefore, when if the pitch between the recording supply ports themselves should is to be made smaller, it is necessary to determine the thickness of the partition wall walls 101b to be formed in the supporting base plate 101 and the width of the supply

flow path paths 101a in consideration of those aspects described above.

Also, for the assembling method or the like described above, which is used for the manufacture of 5 the recording element base plate and the manufacture of the liquid discharge head that includes that of the recording element base plate, the following drawback is encountered:

(1) ~~Of~~ Regarding the locations having coated 10 thereon the dual type bonding agent of ultraviolet and thermal ~~harding dural type~~ coated hardening, the irradiated ultraviolet rays do not reach the locations in the shadows shadow of the adsorption fingers that adsorb the recording element base plate. As a result, 15 the recording element base plate is transferred to the next hardening process while the positioning fixation has not been completed, and the positioning of the recording element base plate is deviated eventually.

(2) The viscosity of the dual type bonding agent 20 of ultraviolet and thermal ~~harding dural type~~ applied hardening on the ~~location~~ locations where irradiated ultraviolet rays do not reach as described above is made extremely low immediately before hardening in the thermal hardening step, and then, due to ~~the~~ capillary 25 force, ~~it~~ the bonding agent is transferred to the corner portions inside the recording liquid flow path. As a result, the discharge nozzles are become clogged.

## SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

It is an object of the present invention to optimize the discharge characteristics of the recording liquid and the supply characteristics thereof, as well 5 as the positioning precision of a recording element base plate to a supporting member.

(For the following paragraph, the reader is referred to Figs. 15 and 16A).

In order to achieve the object described above, 10 the ink jet recording head has a plurality of discharge energy generating devices 4 for discharging recording liquid, while being provided with a recording element base plate 1 arranged on the face opposite to the surface where the devices 4 are arranged, having a 15 plurality of recording liquid supply ports 5 for supplying recording liquid to the devices 4, as well as with a supporting member 2 that holds and fixes the recording element base plate 1. For the supporting member 2, a plurality of recording liquid supply flow paths 2a are arranged to supply recording liquid to 20 each of the supply ports 5 of the recording element base plate 1, respectively, and then, the flow path width of each supply flow path 2a is formed to be smaller than the opening width of the inlet portion of 25 each supply port [4] 5. Further, the ~~steps to be~~ step created between the supply flow path 2a and the supply port 5 is buried by the bonding agent 10 forced

out from the bonding face of the recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2.

#### BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE DRAWINGS

5       Fig. 1 is a perspective view which shows the assembled state ~~where of~~ a recording head and ink tanks ~~are assembled~~ for a recording head cartridge in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

10      Fig. 2 is a view which shows the unassembled state ~~where of~~ the recording head and the ink tanks ~~are separated~~ for the recording head cartridge in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

15      Fig. 3 is an exploded perspective view which shows the recording head cartridge represented in Fig. 1.

Fig. 4 is an exploded perspective view which shows the ink supply unit and the recording element unit represented in Fig. 3.

20      Fig. 5 is a partly broken perspective view which shows a part of the first recording element base plate represented in Fig. 4.

25      Fig. 6 is a partly broken perspective view which shows a part of the second recording element base plate represented in Fig. 4.

Fig. 7 is a cross-sectional view which shows the recording head cartridge represented in Fig. 1.

Fig. 8 is a perspective view which shows a device for coupling the recording element unit and the ink supply unit of the recording head cartridge represented in Fig. 1.

5       Fig. 9 is a perspective view which shows the bottom end of the recording head cartridge represented in Fig. 1.

10      Figs. 10A, 10B and 10C are cross-sectional views which illustrate a method for manufacturing an ink jet recording head in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

15      Figs. 11A and 11B are cross-sectional view views which illustrate the method for manufacturing an ink jet recording head in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

20      Figs. 12A and 12B are cross-sectional view views which illustrate the method for manufacturing an ink jet recording head in accordance with one embodiment of the present invention.

25      Fig. 13 is a perspective view which shows a first recording element base plate represented in Fig. 11B in the assembling step.

Fig. 14 is a perspective view which shows a second recording element base plate represented in Fig. 11B in the assembling step.

Fig. 15 is a cross-sectional view which shows the state where in which the recording device included in an ink jet recording head is mounted on a supporting

member in accordance with a second embodiment of the present invention.

Figs. 16A and 16B are cross-sectional views which illustrate the bonding step for the recording element base plate and the supporting member represented in Fig. 15.

Fig. 17 is a view which shows the state ~~where~~ in which the recording element base plate is mounted on the supporting member, which is the related background art of the application hereof.

#### DETAILED DESCRIPTION OF THE PREFERRED EMBODIMENTS

Now, with reference to the accompanying drawings, the description will be made of the embodiments in accordance with the present invention.

##### (First Embodiment)

Fig. 1 to Fig. 6 are views which illustrate the head cartridge, the recording head, and the ink tanks, respectively, embodying the present invention or to which the present invention is applicable, and the relationships between them as well. Hereunder, with reference to Fig. 1 to Fig. 6, each of the constituents will be described.

As understandable ~~form~~ from Fig. 1 and Fig. 2, the recording head H1001 of the present invention is one constituent that forms a recording head cartridge H1000. The recording head cartridge H1000 comprises the recording head H1001, and the ink tanks H1900

(H1901, H1902, H1903, and H1904) which are detachably mountable on the recording head H1001. The recording head cartridge H1000 is supported to be fixed on the main body of an ink jet recording apparatus by 5 positioning means and electrical contacts of a carriage (not shown), while being detachably mountable on the carriage. The ink tank H1901 is for black ink use, the ink tank H1902 for cyan ink use, the ink tank H1903 for magenta ink use, and the ink tank H1904 for yellow ink 10 use. In this manner, the ink tanks H1901, H1902, H1903, and H1904 are detachably mountable on the recording head H1001, respectively, and each of the tanks is made replaceable to reduce the running costs of image recording by the ink jet recording apparatus.

15 Next, the detailed description will be made of the recording head H1001 per constituent that forms the recording head one after another.

#### <1> Recording head

The recording head H1001 is the one which is 20 called a side shooter type using the bubble jet type that records using electrothermal converting devices to generate thermal energy for creating film boiling in ink in accordance with electric signals.

As shown in Fig. 3 which is an exploded 25 perspective view, the recording head H1001 comprises a recording element unit H1002; an ink supply unit H1003; and a tank holder H2000.

Further, as shown in Fig. 4 which is also an exploded perspective view, the recording element unit H1002 comprises a first recording element base plate H1100; a second recording element base plate 1101; a first plate H1200; an electric wiring tape H1300; an electric contact board H2200; and a second plate H1400. Also, the ink supply unit H1003 comprises an ink supply member H1500; a flow path formation member H1600; a joint rubber H2300; a filter H1700; and a sealing rubber H1800.

<1 - 1> Recording element unit

Fig. 5 is a partly exploded perspective view which shows the first recording element base plate H1100.

For the first recording element base plate H1100, the ink supply port H1102 is formed by ~~the~~ an elongated through opening as ~~the~~ an ink flow path on the Si base plate H1110 of 0.5 mm to 1.0 mm ~~thick~~ thickness, for example, by means of anisotropic etching utilizing the Si crystal orientation, sand blasting, or the like. Then, on both sides across the ink supply port H1102, ~~each of~~ the electrothermal converting devices H1103, which ~~serves~~ serves as recording element elements, ~~is~~ are arranged in zigzag ~~each in one line~~ fashion forming two lines. The electrothermal converting devices H1103 and the electric wiring of Al or the like that supply electric power to each of the electrothermal converting devices H1103 are formed by means of a film formation technique. Further, ~~the~~ an electrode unit H1104 that

supplies electric power to the electric wiring is arranged each on the each outer side of each the lines of electrothermal converting device devices H1103, and the bumps H1105 of Au or the like are formed for the 5 electrode units H1104, respectively. Then, on the Si base plate, the ink flow path walls H1106 and the discharge ports H1107 are formed with resin material by means of a photolithographic technique for the formation of ink flow paths corresponding to the 10 electrothermal converting devices H1103, hence forming the discharge port array H1108. Therefore, ink supplied from the ~~ink flow path supply port~~ H1102 is discharged by means of bubbles which are generated by each electrothermal converting device H1103, because 15 each discharge port H1107 is arranged to face each a corresponding electrothermal converting device H1103.

Also, Fig. 6 is a partly broken perspective view which shows the second recording element base plate H1101.

20 The second recording element base plate H1101 is the one for discharging ~~ink~~ inks of three colors. Three ink supply ports H1102 are formed in parallel, and electro-thermal converting devices and ink discharge ports are formed on both sides ~~having of~~ each 25 of the ink supply ports ~~between them~~. In the same manner as forming the first recording element base plate H1100, the ink supply ports, electrothermal converting devices, electric wiring, electrodes, and

~~others~~ other elements are formed on the Si base plate, of course, and the ink flow paths and ink discharge ports are formed ~~on them~~ thereon with a resin material by use of a photolithographic technique.

5 Then, as in the case of the first recording element base plate, the electrode ~~unit~~ units H1104 and the bumps H1105 of Au or the like are formed to supply electric power to the electric wiring.

10 Here, reverting to Fig. 4, the first plate H1200 is formed by Alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ) material of 0.5 to 10 mm thick thickness, for example. In this respect, the material of the first plate is not necessarily limited to alumina, but it may be possible to produce this plate with ~~the~~ a material which has the same linear expansion coefficient as that of the material of the recording element base plate H1100, and also, has the same heat conductivity ~~as~~ or more than that of the material of the recording element base plate H1100.

15 The material of the first plate H1200 may be ~~either~~ any one of silicon (Si), aluminum nitride (AlN), zirconium, silicon nitride ( $\text{Si}_3\text{N}_4$ ), silicon carbide (SiC), molybdenum (Mo), and tungsten (W), for example. For the first plate H1200, there are formed the ink supply port H1201 for supplying black ink to the first recording element base plate H1100, and the ink supply ports H1201 for supplying cyan, magenta, and yellow ink to the second recording element base plate H1101.

20 Then, the ink supply ports H1102 of the recording

element base plate correspond to the ink supply ports H1201 of the first plate H1200, respectively, and then, the first recording element base plate H1100 and the second recording element base plate H1101 are  
5 positioned and bonded to the first plate H1200 to be fixed in good precision. Here, it is desirable to use the first bonding agent H1202 (see, e.g., Figs. 10A and 10C) which has low viscosity with low hardening temperature so that it can be hardened in a short period of time, while having a relatively high hardness  
10 after being hardened, as well as, as a good resistance to ink. Such first bonding agent H1202 is, for example, a thermal hardening bonding agent having an epoxy resin as its main component, and the thickness of  
15 the bonded layer should preferably be 50  $\mu\text{m}$  or less.

The electric wiring tape H1300 is for the application of electric signals to the first recording element base plate H1100 and the second recording element base plate H1101 in order to discharge ink, and  
20 comprises a plurality of opened parts for incorporating each of the recording element base plates; electrode terminals H1302 corresponding to the electrode units H1104 on the respective recording element base plates; and the electrode terminal units H1303 to effectuate  
25 the electrical connection with the electric contact base plate H2200 which ~~are~~ is provided with the external signal input terminals H1301 positioned on the edge portion of the wiring tape to receive electric

signals from the apparatus main body. The electrode terminal terminals H1302 and the electrode terminal terminals H1303 are connected by use of a continuous wiring pattern of copper foil.

5       The electric wiring tape H1300, the first recording element base plate H1100, and the second recording element base plate H1101 are connected electrically, respectively. The connecting method is, for example, such that the electrode unit units H1104 of the recording element base pate and the electrode terminal terminals H1302 of the electric wiring tape H1300 are electrically coupled by means of thermo-ultrasonic pressurized welding.

10      The second plate H1400 is, for example, one-sheet plate member of 0.5 to 1.0 mm thick thickness, and formed by metallic material, such as ceramics of alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ), Al, SUS, or the like. Then, this plate is configured to be provided with the opening portion portions larger, respectively, than the contour dimension dimensions of the first recording element base plate H1100 and the second recording element base plate H1101 bonded and fixed to the first plate H1200, respectively, and also, this plate is also bonded to the first plate H1200 H1200, by use of the second bonding agent H1203 H1203, so that the electric wiring tape H1300 can be electrically connected with the first recording element base plate H1100 and the second recording element base plate H1101 on the plane, thus

bonding and fixing the reverse side of the electric wiring tape H1300 by use of ~~the~~ a third bonding agent H1306 (not shown).

The electrically connected portions of the first recording element base plate H1100, the second recording element base plate H1101, and the electric wiring tape H1300 are sealed by a first sealant H1307 (not shown), and a second sealant H1308 in order to protect the electrically connected portions from erosion due to ink, and external shocks as well. The first sealant seals mainly the reverse side of the connected portion between the electrode ~~terminal~~ terminals H1302 of the electric wiring tape and the electrode ~~unit~~ H1105 units H1104 of the recording element base plate, and the outer circumferential portion of the recording element base plate. The second sealant seals the surface side of the aforesaid connected portion.

Further, the electric contact base board H2200, which is provided with the external signal input ~~terminal~~ H1301 terminals to receive electric signals from the apparatus main body, is electrically connected with the edge portion of the electric wiring tape by means of thermally pressurized bonding using an anisotropic conductive film or the like.

Then, the electric wiring tape H1300 is folded on one side face of the first plate H1200 to be bonded to the side face of the first plate H1200 by use of the

third bonding agent H1306. The third bonding agent H1306 is, for example, a thermo-hardening bonding agent of 10 to 100 µm ~~thick~~ thickness with an epoxy resin as its main component, for example.

5      <1 - 2> Ink supply unit

The ink supply member H1500 is formed by means of resin molding, for example. For the resin material thereof, it is desirable to use ~~the~~ a resin material in which a glass filler is mixed in 5 to 40% for ~~the~~ enhancement of the form robustness.

10     As shown in ~~Fig.~~ Figs. 4 and 7, the ink supply member H1500 is one of the constituents to form the ink supply unit H1003 that conducts ink from the ink tanks H1900 to the recording element unit H1002, and the ink flow paths H1501 are formed when the flow path formation member H1600 is welded thereto by means of ultrasonic welding. Also, to the joint H1517 H1520 that coupled couples the recording head with the ink tanks H1900, the filter H1700 is bonded by means of welding in order to prevent ~~the~~ external dust particles from entering ~~them~~. Further, in order to prevent ink evaporation from the joint H1517 H1520, a sealing rubber H1800 is provided therefor.

15     Also, the ink supply member H1500 is partly functioned serves in part to hold the freely detachable and attachable ink tanks H1900, and also, it is provided with the first hole H1503 which engages with the second nail H1910 of the ink tanks H1900.

Also, as shown in Fig. 4, there are provided an installation guide H1601 to guide the recording head cartridge H1000 to the position of the carriage installation on the main body of an ink jet recording apparatus; ~~the~~ a coupling portion H1508 where the recording head cartridge is installed and fixed to the carriage by use of a head set lever; an abutting portion H1509 for positioning the carriage in a designated position of installation in the direction X (carriage scanning direction); an abutting portion H1510 in the direction Y (recording medium carrying direction); and an abutting portion H1511 in the direction Z (ink discharging direction). Also, it is arranged to provide the terminal fixing portion H1512 that positions and fixes the electric contact base plate H2200 of the recording element unit H1002. Then, with ~~of~~ a plurality of ribs arranged for the terminal fixing portion H1512 and the circumference thereof, the robustness is enhanced for the surface where the terminal fixing portion H1512 is provided.

<1 - 3> Coupling of the recording head unit and the ink supply unit

As shown in Fig. 3, the recording head H1001 is completed by bonding the recording element unit H1001 H1002 with the ink supply unit H1003, and further with the tank holder H2000. The bonding is executed as follows:

The ink supply port (ink supply port H1201 of the first plate H1200) of the recording element unit H1002 and the ink supply port (ink supply port H1601 H1602 of the liquid flow path formation member H1600) of the ink supply unit H1003 should be communicated without causing any ink leakage. To this end, each of them is fixed by use of screws H2400 to be fixed under pressure with the joint rubber H2300 between them. Here, at the same time, the recording element unit H1002 is positioned and fixed exactly to the standard positions of the ink supply unit in the direction X, direction Y, and direction Z.

Then, the electric contact base plate H1301 of the recording element unit H1002 is positioned and fixed to one side face of the ink supply member H1500 by use of the terminal positioning pins H1515 (two locations) and the terminal positioning holes H1309 (two locations). The fixing method is, for example, ~~such as to caulk and fix caulking and fixing~~ the terminal coupling pins H1515 ~~which is~~ provided for the ink supply member H1500, but any other fixing means may be usable. Fig. 8 shows the finished condition.

Further, the coupling hole and coupling portion of the ink supply member H1500 with the tank holder are fitted into and coupled with the tank holder H2000 to complete the recording head H1001. Fig. 9 shows the completion thereof.

<2> Recording head cartridge

Fig. 1 and Fig. 2 are views which illustrate the installation of the recording head H1001 and ink tanks H1901, H1902, H1903, and H1904 which constitute a recording head cartridge H1000. Inside the ink tanks 5 H1901, H1902, H1903, and H1904, ink of each corresponding color is contained, respectively. Also, as shown in Fig. 7, inside each of the ink tanks, the ink supply port H1907 is formed to supply ink retained in the ink tank to the recording head H1001. For 10 example, when the ink tank H1901 is installed on the recording head H1001, the ink supply port H1907 of the ink tank H1901 is in contact under pressure with the filter H1700 installed for the joint portion H1520 of the recording head H1001. Then, black ink in the ink 15 tank H1901 is supplied to the first recording element base plate from the ink supply port H1907 through the first plate H1200 by way of the ink flow path H1501 of the recording head H1001.

Then, ink is supplied to the bubbling chamber 20 where the electrothermal converting device H1103 and the discharge port H1107 are arranged, and ink is discharged toward a recording sheet serving as a recording medium by the application of thermal energy generated by the electrothermal converting device 25 H1103.

Next, ~~of the manufacturing process of a recording head structured as described above,~~ the description will be made of the step of fixing the first recording

element base plate H1100 to the first plat plate H1200,  
in the manufacturing process of a recording head  
structured as described above.

Figs. 10A to 10C, Figs. 11A and 11B, and Figs. 12A  
5 and 12B are cross-sectional views which illustrate the  
method for manufacturing the ink jet recording head in  
accordance with one embodiment of the present  
invention. In this respect, Fig. 10A to Fig. 12B  
represent the section of the first recording element  
10 base plate H1100, taken in the longitudinal direction  
of the discharge port array thereof.

In Fig. 10A to Fig. 12B, [[a]] reference mark H101  
designates the transfer pin that coats bonding agent  
H1202; H106, the vacuum adsorption finger that adsorbs  
15 and positions the recording element base plate; H110  
and H111, the CCD cameras that recognize the position  
of the recording element base plate; and H112 and H113,  
ultraviolet irradiation nozzles, ~~respectively~~.

In the step of fixing the first recording element  
20 base plate H1100 to the first plate H1200, the bonding  
agent H1202 is at first coated on the transfer surface  
of the transfer pin H101 as shown in Fig. 10A. Then,  
in continuation, as shown in Fig. ~~10A~~ 10B, the transfer  
surface of the transfer pin H101 is put in contact with  
25 the first plate H1200. Then, as shown in Fig. 10C,  
when the transfer pin H101 is released from the first  
plate H1200, the bonding agent H1202 is coated on the  
bonding locations of the first plate H1200.

At this juncture, it is arranged ~~so as to transfer~~  
~~that the bonding agent H1202 is transferred on the~~  
~~first plate H1200 to the a position on the first plate~~  
~~H1200 from which shifts it can shift to extend outside~~  
5 the position where the first recording element base  
plate H1100 is in contact with the first plate H1200.  
The bonding agent is a dual type [o] ultraviolet and  
thermal ~~harding hardening bonding agent~~, that is, the  
bonding agent can be hardened by the irradiation of  
10 ultraviolet rays, and also, by application of heat.  
The bonding agent thus used has also excellent  
resistance to ink, and excellent transferability as  
well.

Next, as shown in Fig. 11A, the surface of the ink  
15 flow path wall H1106 that forms the discharge port  
H1107 of the first recording element base plate H1100  
is held by the vacuum adsorption finger H106, and the  
alignment mark (not shown) of the first recording  
element base plate H1100 is optically recognized by the  
20 CCD cameras H110 and H111 to position it with the first  
plate H1200.

In continuation, as shown in Fig. 11B, the vacuum  
adsorption finger H106 thus positioned descends to  
enable the first recording element base plate H1100 to  
25 abut upon the first plate H1200 and to compress them.  
Then, the bonding agent H1202 is forced out to the edge  
portions of the first recording element base plate  
H1100 in the longitudinal direction as shown in Fig.

11B. In Fig. 11B, it is observable appears as if the bonding agent H1202 is forced out only to each outer side of the ink flow path, but actually, the bonding agent is also slightly forced out inside into the ink flow path (particularly in into the ink supply port H1102 (see Figs. 5 and 6) to be described later.

Then, as shown in Fig. 12A, the bonding agent H1202 forced out from the edge portions is hardened by the irradiation of ultraviolet rays from the ultraviolet irradiation nozzles H112 and H113, while keeping the first recording element base plate H1100 to be compressed to and the first plate H1200 compressed. Thus, the first recording element base plate H1100 is positioned and fixed on the first plate H1200.

Further, after the vacuum is released and the vacuum adsorption finger H106 is moved, ultraviolet rays are again irradiated by the ultraviolet irradiation nozzles H112 and H113 from to the surface of the discharge port ports H1107 as shown in Fig. 12B, thus hardening the bonding agent H1202 which is slightly forced out in into the ink flow path paths (particularly, in into the ink supply port H1102 (see Figs. 5 and 6) in order to prevent the bonding agent from flowing out to clog the ink flow paths and discharge ports. As regards the irradiation of ultraviolet rays to on the bonding agent that is slightly forced out in the ink flow path paths, the

detailed description will be made later in conjunction with Figs. 16A and 16B.

After the bonding process, this assembled part is further heated in order to harden the bonding agent H1202 yet to be hardened in the locations where the ultraviolet rays cannot reach.

As described above, the bonding agent is positively forced out from the bonding surface. Then, with the ultraviolet rays irradiated to such particular locations, the recording element base plate and the supporting member can be fixed tentatively. Thus, kept in the state of being positioned in high precision, the next hardening process is performed, leading to the enhancement of productivity and quality. Further, it becomes possible to irradiate ultraviolet rays to the bonding agent which is forced out into the flow paths ~~for the performance of the~~ to achieve firmer fixation of the recording element base plate, while preventing the bonding agent from flowing into the flow paths.

Fig. 13 is a perspective view which shows the first recording element base plate H1100 shown in the process of assembling represented in Fig. 11B.

As shown in Fig. 13, the bonding agent H1202 is forced out from the edge portions of the first recording element base plate H1100 in the longitudinal direction.

Fig. 14 is a perspective view which shows the second recording element base plate H1101 shown in the

~~state process of assembling~~ represented in Fig. 11B in  
~~the process of assembling.~~

The second recording element base plate H1101 is also positioned and fixed on the first plate H1200 in 5 the same process as the process described above. The bonding agent H1202 is forced out from the edge portions of the second recording element base plate H1101 in the longitudinal direction.

In this respect, if the thickness of the bonding 10 agent is less than 4  $\mu\text{m}$  after hardening, there is a fear that a bonding defect occurs may occur, and if the thickness of the bonding agent is more than 10  $\mu\text{m}$ , the heat radiation is blocked from the recording element base plate to the first plate, and there is a fear that 15 ink is may not be discharged normally. Therefore, it is desirable to set the thickness of the bonding agent H1202 between the recording element base plates H1100 and H1101, and the first plate H1200 H1200, at a value within a range of approximately 4  $\mu\text{m}$  to 10  $\mu\text{m}$ .

20 (Second Embodiment)

Fig. 15 is a cross-sectional view which shows the recording element included in an ink jet recording head in accordance with a fourth embodiment of the present invention in a state where it is mounted on a 25 supporting member.

The recording element base plate 1 is arranged on the supporting member 2 with the function to discharge recording liquid by means of the electrothermal

converting devices provided therefor. The recording element base plate 1 is bonded to the supporting member 2 by use of a bonding resin or the like. The supporting member 2 is formed ~~by ceramics of ceramic~~,  
5 such as alumina ( $\text{Al}_2\text{O}_3$ ), and the recording element base plate 1 is formed ~~by~~ of silicon (Si).

Also, for the discharge port plate 3 provided for the recording element base plate 1 on ~~the one~~ surface side thereof, a plurality of discharge ports 3a are  
10 open in two lines in ~~the position-to-face positions~~  
respectively facing the discharge energy generating elements (electrothermal converting devices, for example) 4 which serve as recording elements. Then, the discharge port array is formed in ~~the~~ two lines  
15 that make a pair. On the central part of the recording element base plate 1 on the reverse side, each of the recording liquid supply ~~port ports~~ 5 is open in a length which is almost the same as the length of each discharge port array in the arrangement direction,  
20 ~~which penetrates penetrating~~ the supporting member 2 in order to supply recording liquid from the recording liquid supply flow ~~path paths~~ 2a to the discharge ~~port~~ ports 3a.

For the present embodiment, the recording liquid supply system is structured to be arranged in high density, but the main ~~consideration is considerations~~  
25 are given as follows:

(1) The recording liquid supply flow path 2a should have a width ~~good~~ large enough to supply a sufficient amount of recording liquid to the recording liquid supply port 5.

5 (2) The partition wall 2b of the supporting member 2 ~~is~~ should not be allowed to propagate any unfavorable influence of vibration waves to the adjacent supply flow paths 2a when recording liquid is discharged.

10 (3) The required assembling precision should not become too high ~~when~~ for the assembly of the recording element base plate 1 ~~is assembled~~ with the supporting member 2.

15 (4) ~~The unwanted steps that Stepped portions, between liquid supply flow path 2a and recording liquid supply port 5, which may cause the bubble pools to form in the recording head head,~~ should not ~~be allowed to exist in the finished product.~~

Consequently, each of the recording liquid supply paths 2a of the present embodiment has a width which is smaller than the opening width of the inlet portion 20 ~~portions of each of the respective~~ recording liquid supply ports 5, and the thickness of each partition wall 2b that partitions the adjacent recording supply flow paths 2a is made larger than the pitch between the inlet portions ~~themselves~~ of the adjacent recording liquid supply ports 5. More specifically, the width A 25 of the recording liquid supply path 2a of the present embodiment is set at 0.6 mm; the thickness B of the

partition wall 26, 0.63mm; the pitch C between the inlet portions ~~themselves~~ of the adjacent recording liquid supply ports 5, approximately 0.25 mm. Also, each of the supply ports 5 is formed in ~~taper-making~~ a 5 tapered shape, reducing the flow path width ~~smaller as being in the direction~~ away from the liquid supply port 5 path 2a toward the outlet portion. Here, for the present embodiment, a five-liquid flow path system is exemplified, but the number of liquid flow paths for 10 the system is not necessarily limited thereto.

In accordance with the present embodiment, the partition wall 2b is arranged to be thicker than the pitch between the inlet portions ~~themselves~~ of the adjacent recording liquid flow paths 5 (that is, the 15 width of the recording liquid supply flow path 2a of the supporting member 2 is smaller than the opening diameter of the recording liquid supply port 5 of the recording element base plate 1). Therefore, it becomes possible to suppress the propagation of vibration waves 20 that may be carried to ~~the~~ adjacent supply flow paths 2a through the partition ~~wall walls~~ 2b when recording liquid is discharged, thus enhancing the discharging preformation performance of the recording liquid.

Also, with the partition wall 2b arranged in a 25 thickness larger than the pitch between adjacent recording liquid supply ports 5 themselves, there is no need for making the assembling precision high for the recording element base plate 1 with respect to the

supporting member 2. In other words, this arrangement leads to the enhancement of productivity.

Figs. 16A and 16B are cross-sectional views which illustrate the steps of ~~bonding~~ bonding the recording 5 element base plate and the supporting member represented in Fig. 15.

For the present embodiment, the bonding agent 10 of ultraviolet (UV) light hardening type is used for bonding the recording element base plate 1 and the 10 supporting member 2. Then, with the bonding agent 10, the step that may be created between the recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2 is buried to prevent unwanted liquid pools, as well as bubble pools, from being generated in the recording 15 liquid residing in each supply flow path. For the mode in which plural lines of recording liquid supply ports are provided for one recording element base plate ~~like~~ as in the present embodiment, it becomes possible to ~~attain making achieve manufacture of~~ the recording 20 element base plate having the supply ports in high density by arranging the structure as the present invention, that is, to implement the manufacture of the recording element base plate at lower costs. Further, even ~~in~~ at high density, it is possible to make the 25 thickness of each wall between the supply flow paths of the supporting member 2 larger to a certain extent, hence preventing ~~crosstalks crosstalk~~, while contributing to the enhancement of productivity.

The bonding agent 10 coated on the bonding face between the recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2 is forced out between the upper face of the supporting member 2 and the side face of 5 the recording liquid supply port 5, respectively, as shown in Figs. 16A and 16B, when the recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2 are pressed to each other. Ultraviolet rays are irradiated from above the recording element base plate 1 to the bonding agent 10 thus forced out. Then, the bonding agent 10 is hardened, and consequently, the adjacent flow paths 2a themselves are sealed more reliably. Here, as shown in Fig. 16B, the discharge port plate 3 is formed by a transparent resin material or the like, thus making it 15 possible to transmit ultraviolet rays. Also, the ultraviolet rays ~~scatters~~ scatter, as shown in Fig. 16B, when transmitted through the discharge port plate 3, and further, being diffused when reflected from the surface of the recording liquid supply port 5 and 20 recording liquid supply flow path 2a, the ultraviolet rays reach the bonding agent 10 which is forced out into the recording liquid supply port of the recording element base plate, thus quickly hardening the bonding agent thus forced out.

25 As a result, the recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2 can be tentatively fixed more firmly. Further, as described earlier, the stepped portion portions on the bonded face between the

recording element base plate 1 and the supporting member 2 can be buried by use of the bonding agent, hence preventing unwanted liquid pools, as well as bubble pools, from being generated.

5       For the present embodiment, the width of the recording liquid supply flow path 2a is made smaller than the opening width of the inlet portion of the recording liquid supply port 5. There ~~occurs~~ occur steps that may ~~becomes~~ become liquid pools of recording 10 liquid on each bonding portion between the supporting member 2 and the recording element base plate 1. However, as described above, each of these steps is buried with the forced-out bonding agent 10, and then, such bonding agent 10 can be hardened by the 15 irradiation of ultraviolet rays from above the recording element base plate 1. Therefore, even if the structure is arranged to make the width of the recording liquid supply flow path 2a smaller than the opening width of the inlet portion of the recording 20 liquid supply port 5, there is no possibility that liquid pools are formed in the recording liquid in the supply path. Thus, the liquid supply performance of ~~recording liquid~~ is not spoiled at all.

In this respect, the bonding agent 10 usable for 25 the present embodiment is not necessarily limited to the type of ultraviolet ~~harding~~ hardening only. If the dual type ultraviolet and thermal hardening bonding agent 10 ~~of dual type of ultraviolet and thermal~~

harding is used, the bonding agent 10 ~~is may be~~ heated in addition to ~~the irradiation of being irradiated by~~ ultraviolet rays ~~to the bonding agent 10~~ as described above, thus hardening the bonding agent 10 more 5 reliably.

Now, the description has been made of the side shooter type of bubble jet method that uses electrothermal converting devices for generating thermal energy as the recording method for each of the 10 above embodiments. The present invention, however, is not limited to this type. It is of course applicable to the so-called piezo-discharge method that uses electro-mechanical converting devices, and the ink jet head of the edge shooter type, for example.

## ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

An ink jet recording head has a plurality of discharge energy generating devices for discharging recording liquid, while being provided with liquid; a 5 recording element base plate arranged on the face opposite to the surface where the devices are arranged, having a plurality of recording liquid supply ports for supplying recording liquid to the devices, as well as with devices; and a supporting member that holds and 10 fixes the recording element base plate. For the supporting member, a plurality of recording liquid supply paths are arranged to supply recording liquid to each of the supply ports of the recording element base plate, respectively, and then, the flow path width of 15 each the supply flow path paths is formed to be smaller than the opening width of the inlet portion portions of each the supply port ports. Further, the steps to be stepped portions created between the respective supply flow path paths and the supply port is ports are buried 20 by the a bonding agent forced out from the bonding face of the recording element base plate and the supporting member. With the structure thus arranged, the ink jet recording head is capable of optimizing the discharge characteristics of recording liquid and the supply 25 characteristics thereof, as well as the positioning precision of a recording element base plate to a supporting member.

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